WILLETTS WASTE

Commingled Recycling Services in Sydney for Homes and Businesses

Understanding Commingled Recycling Under 2025 NSW Waste Guidelines

Commingled recycling is the standard yellow-lid bin system used across Sydney where approved materials like paper, cardboard, glass bottles, aluminium cans, and rigid plastic containers are placed together in one bin. Instead of separating each item at home or at work, everything goes into a single stream and is sorted later at a Material Recovery Facility (MRF).

In 2025, NSW waste policies continue to push landfill reduction targets and higher recycling recovery rates. That means cleaner recycling streams, less contamination, and better source separation are more important than ever. For households, it's about following bin guidelines carefully. For businesses, it's about maintaining compliant recycling systems and reducing general waste costs.

How Commingled Recycling Works in Sydney

Once collected, commingled recycling is transported to specialised sorting facilities across the Sydney region. There, advanced machinery separates materials using magnets, air classifiers, optical scanners, and manual quality checks.

The materials are divided into streams such as:

- Paper and cardboard
- PET and HDPE plastics
- Glass

After sorting, these materials are compacted and sent to manufacturers to be turned into new packaging, building materials, office paper, and consumer products. The entire system supports circular economy goals set by NSW authorities, which aim to reduce reliance on virgin raw materials.

What Can and Cannot Go Into Commingled Bins

Being specific matters. The following items are generally accepted in Sydney's commingled recycling system:

- Clean cardboard boxes (flattened)
- Office paper and newspapers
- Plastic drink bottles and containers

Incorrect items increase contamination levels, which can cause entire truckloads to be redirected to landfill.

Why Proper Commingled Recycling Matters in 2025

Landfill levies in NSW continue to rise, making disposal more expensive for businesses. At the same time, sustainability reporting and ESG tracking are becoming standard requirements for many companies. A properly managed commingled recycling system helps reduce general waste volume, lower disposal costs, and improve environmental reporting outcomes.

For households, it's simpler: rinse containers, flatten boxes, and avoid wish-cycling items that don't belong in the bin. Small habits prevent contamination and increase the amount of material that actually gets recycled.

For more information

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